

**Tool 2(content).3. How to Use the Content Network Website, with Activity (1 page)****How to Use the Content Network Website**

The Content Network Website is organized to provide access to research reviews in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science.

The following activity is designed to give users an opportunity to interact with the materials that can be found on the website. The process described below is one way a school might use the information found on this website. The activity may be done independently or with a group. If conducted with a group, arrange to project the web site to enable participants to view the demonstration.

Activity:

Log onto the Iowa Department of Education webpage to access the Iowa Professional Development Content Network Website: <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/tqt/tc/prodev/main.html>

- ☐ Review the welcome and introductory information on the home page.
- ☐ Review what is included on each page by selecting the buttons provided on the Resources Bar at the top of the screen.
  - **About This Project:** This page explains the purposes and intent of the Content Network and a rationale for using scientifically based research. The procedures used to develop the Content Network and conduct the research reviews are described in this section.
  - **Selecting Content:** This page offers a process that may be followed by local districts for selecting content. An approach for deciding on what to study further and how to review research studies is explained.
  - **Definitions:** The definition of scientifically based research is presented, along with the criteria for rating the quality of the research.
  - **Upcoming Additions:** This page lists new items that will be provided and anticipated changes to the Content Network site.
  - **Links/Resources:** Links are included for various resources that will assist with selecting content.
  - **Help:** Directions on how to access information on the site are provided.
- ☐ Return to the home page and notice the buttons for Reading, Mathematics, and Science.
- ☐ Select one content area by clicking on the icon for that area and review the background information about the content area.
- ☐ To see a selection of studies to review click on the grade level range you are interested in. You will see a list of strands at the top of the page and a list of article titles with summaries at the bottom of the page. Selecting a strand and then clicking on an underlined title will lead you to the research reviews and ratings.
- ☐ To become familiar with the site, pick a content area, grade level range and strand. Find a title that is of interest to you and skim the summary, quality of research, and review of research.
- ☐ Discuss with a partner what you discovered as you read through the documentation about the study you chose.
- ☐ Discuss as a group how you might use the web site to support the selection of content for a professional development focus.